IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Ryosuke YONEKURA et al.

Serial No. NEW : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH

Filed July 8, 2003 : Attorney Docket No. 2003_0928A

CLEANING APPARATUS AND CLEANING

METHOD

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

	(1) [] the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or									
	(2) [] t	he fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.							
1c.	[] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:									
	ot	ter th herwi us:	e mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which se closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and							
	the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and									
	th	the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.								
2.	It	is her	eby certified							
	a.		that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or							
	b.	[]	that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.							
3. []	Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.									
4.	For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, refemade to:									
	a.	[]	a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,							
	b.	[]	a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,							

- c. [] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
- d. [X] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
- e. [] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
- 5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryosuke YONEKURA et al.

Michael S. Huppert

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July 8, 2003

Sheet 1 of 1										
FORM PTO 1449	.S. DEPAR	RTMENT OF COMMERC	RCE	ATTY DOCKET NO. 2003_0928A				NO.		
PA	ATENT AN	ND TRADEMARK OFFICE NCES CITED BY APPLICA	ICE ANT(S)	APPLICANT Ryosuke YONEKURA et al.						
Dat		eral sheets if necessary) ted to PTO: July 8, 20		FILING DATE July 8, 2003			GROUP			
			U	J.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CI	CLASS	SUBCLASS	SUBCLASS FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE		
	AA	6,494,220	12/2002	Matsuda et al.	†_					
	AB	5,923,915	7/1999	Akimoto et al.						
	AC	6,516,815	2/2003	Stevens et al.						
	AD	 	<u> </u>							
	AE	<u> </u>								
	AF									
	AG									
	АН									
	AI									
	т-т		FORE	IGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	1	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CL/	ASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLA YES	ATION NO	
	AJ	08-323302	12/1996	JP				Abstract		
1	AK									
	AL									
	АМ									
	AN									
		OTHER D	OCUMENT(S) (Incl	luding Author, Title, Date, Pertine	nent Pages	;, Etc.)				
	AO									
	АР						-			
	AQ									
XAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED						

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.